

## Health benefits for Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority board members

HB 2622 by Ortiz (Hinojosa)

---

**DIGEST:** HB 2622 would have allowed a board member of Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority to participate in any health or other insurance benefit program offered to an employee of the authority.

**GOVERNOR'S  
REASON FOR  
VETO:**

“I am vetoing House Bill No. 2622 at the author’s request. The bill would extend employee health insurance benefits to board members of the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA); however the CCRTA board has recently withdrawn its support of the bill.”

**RESPONSE:**

Rep. Solomon Ortiz, Jr., the bill’s author, said: “I filed this legislation on behalf of the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA), based on the unanimous support of the organization’s Board of Directors. While RTA board members in other cities received compensation, CCRTA board members received nothing. However, instead of a cash benefit, the board asked for the option of participating in the employee health insurance plan. They explained that this would help them better understand their employee’s health insurance needs and issues, which would translate into the board making more informed policy decisions regarding insurance benefits for the organization – decisions that would save the CCRTA money in the long run. Additionally, insurance benefits would help diversify the board and attract board members who actually use public transportation.

“However, the CCRTA has since decided to withdraw its support for the measure, deciding that any benefits from the bill were outweighed by the controversy it generated. Many of my constituents and community leaders have also told me they don’t think the bill is a good idea. When my constituents speak, I listen. I thank the governor for vetoing this bill at my request.”

Sen. Juan Hinojosa, the Senate sponsor, said: “If we want to attract qualified people to serve on important boards and commissions, such as the CCRTA, we must offer those people a per diem or some other reasonable compensation for their time serving the community. Otherwise, only the wealthy will be able to afford to serve. Ensuring that diverse views are represented is important to me. I believe that we all benefit when people from diverse backgrounds have the opportunity to serve because the process by which public policy is developed is more open and more able to address the needs of the entire community.”

**NOTES:** HB 2622 was analyzed in Part Three of the May 8 *Daily Floor Report*.